

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A terrain model element, comprising:

a base of a foamed plastics material having adhered on an upper face thereof a shaped layer between 1 and 10 mm in thickness and providing the modelling terrain shape, which is the shaped layer being comprised substantially of ~~latex~~-latex;

a catalysed foaming mixture of a plastics monomer and a foaming agent disposed above and contouring the shaped layer;

a capping disposed directly above the catalysed foaming mixture to captively retain the catalysed foaming mixture between the shaped layer and the capping, the capping including a plurality of holes to allow for air to flow therethrough; and

a frame attached to the base,

wherein the capping is fastened to the frame.

25. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the base is sheet-like.

26. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the foamed plastics material is a flexible foam.

27. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the foamed plastics material adheres to the latex by reason of being directly molded onto the latex layer.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 27, wherein the foamed plastics material fills or substantially fills an otherwise open cavity shape of an underneath surface of the shaped latex layer.

30. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 25, wherein the shaped layer of latex is formed so that it includes parts that are adhering to an upper surface of the base material, and other parts which are hollow and which therefore have a lowermost surface which is above and separate from an uppermost surface of the base material.

31. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the latex layer is formed and cured in a mold that will absorb moisture from the latex applied thereto.

32. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 31, wherein the mold is formed from Plaster of Paris.

33. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein there is a coating on an upper surface of the shaped layer which is an acrylic based paint.

34. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the base unit is made from a urethane based foam.

35. (Previously Presented) A combination of terrain model elements, comprising:
at least two terrain model elements, which are located one alongside another to provide a continuous terrain appearance, and where each of the elements is as described in claim 24.

36. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the upper latex layer has the plastics material molded and foamed directly on to the back or lower surface of the shaped layer.

37. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 36, wherein the foamed plastics material when foamed and cured, remains flexible.

38. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the shaped layer includes an undercut shape.

39. (Previously Presented) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the element has a plan that is hexagonal in shape.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacture of a terrain model element, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a mold for an upper shaped layer of the element, which is adapted to effect a moisture reducing ~~effect;effect, the mold including a frame;~~

applying liquid latex to the mold and leaving this so that at least some of the latex closest to the mold surface is caused to dry and ~~effect~~ thereby form a thin layer of solidified latex;

pouring out from the mold any excess liquid latex; ~~and~~

~~then adhering a backing to the shaped upper layer of latex, which is of a foamed flexible plastics material.~~

pouring a catalysed foaming mixture of a plastics monomer and a foaming agent such that the foaming mixture is disposed above and contours the shaped layer;

applying a capping directly above the catalysed foaming mixture to captively retain the catalysed foaming mixture between the shaped layer and the capping, the capping including a plurality of holes to allow for air to flow therethrough, the capping made of a flexible plastics material and the shaped layer being between 1 and 10 mm in thickness and;
and

attaching the capping to the frame.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacture of claim 42, wherein the mold is coated with a dehydrating liquid before the liquid latex is applied.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacture of claim 42, wherein the dehydrating liquid includes alcohol.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the liquid latex is applied and left in the mold until a solidified layer of between 1 mm and 10 mm in thickness is formed, after which the liquid remaining is drained off.

45. (Previously Presented) A terrain model element produced using the method of claim 40.

46. (New) The terrain model element of claim 24, wherein the frame is made of wood.

47. (New) The method of manufacture of claim 40, wherein the frame is made of wood.